

School of Theology at Claremont



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THE BOW IN THE CLOUD

CLARA BELLE BAKER

BS
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B25
1922

Josephine Teetor

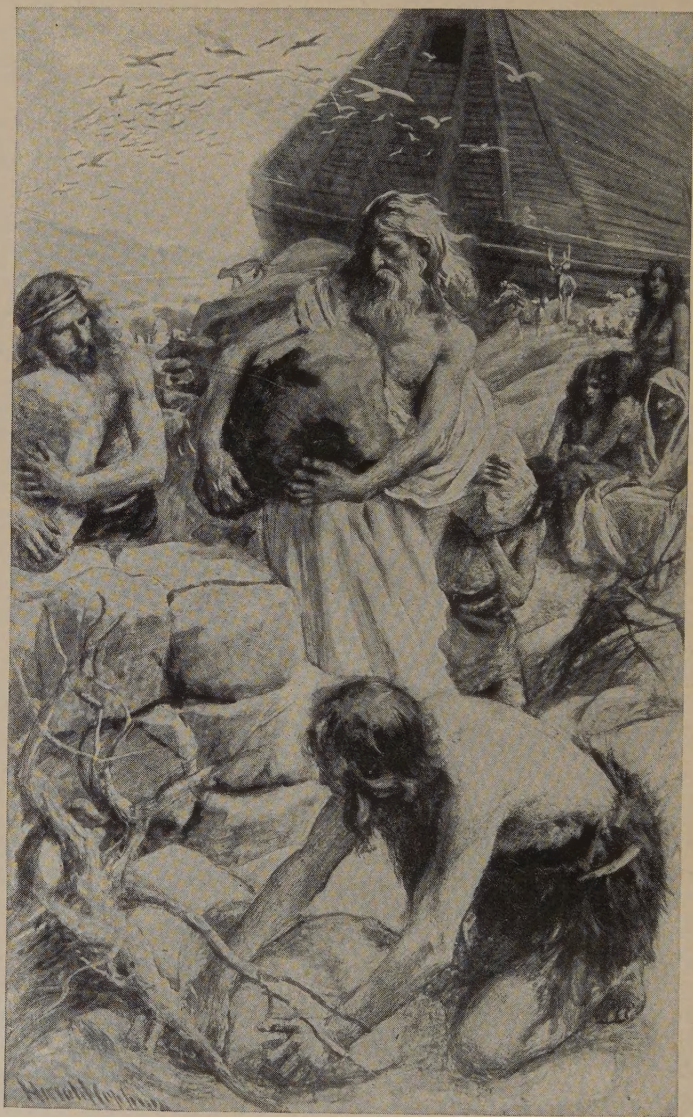


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NOAH BUILDING THE ALTAR

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WEEK-DAY SCHOOL SERIES

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EVERYDAY LESSONS IN RELIGION

VOLUME ONE

THE BOW IN THE CLOUD

BY

CLARA BELLE BAKER

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THE BOW IN THE CLOUD



SUMMER

Plockhorst

I

THE BEGINNING

IN the beginning there were no people upon the earth, and no animals, neither fish in the sea nor birds in the air nor beasts upon the land. There were no trees and no flowering plants and no green grass. There was no light, neither sun in the day nor moon and stars at night. The earth itself was without form and void, like a great rolling ocean, and darkness was upon the waters.

But God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. God called the light day, and the darkness he called night. And God made two great lights, the sun to rule the day, and the moon to rule the night: he made the stars also.

God said, "Let the waters be gathered together at one place, and let the dry land appear"; and it was so. God called the dry land earth; and the gathering together of the waters he called seas.

God said, "Let the earth bring forth grass, and plants bearing flowers, and trees bearing fruits"; and it was so. The earth brought forth grass, and plants bearing flowers, and trees bearing fruits.

God said, "Let the waters bring forth fishes, and let birds fly above the earth in the heavens." And God made great whales and every creature that moves in the waters and every winged thing that moves in the air.

God said, "Let the earth bring forth living creatures after their kind, cattle, and creeping things, and every kind of beast." And God made the beasts of the earth, the cattle and everything that creeps upon the earth.

Then God created men like himself; men and women he created. And God said, "I have made you to rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over the living things upon the earth. I have given you the plants and the fruit of the trees for food."

And children came to live with the men and women upon the earth. The children played on the grass, and smelled the flowers,

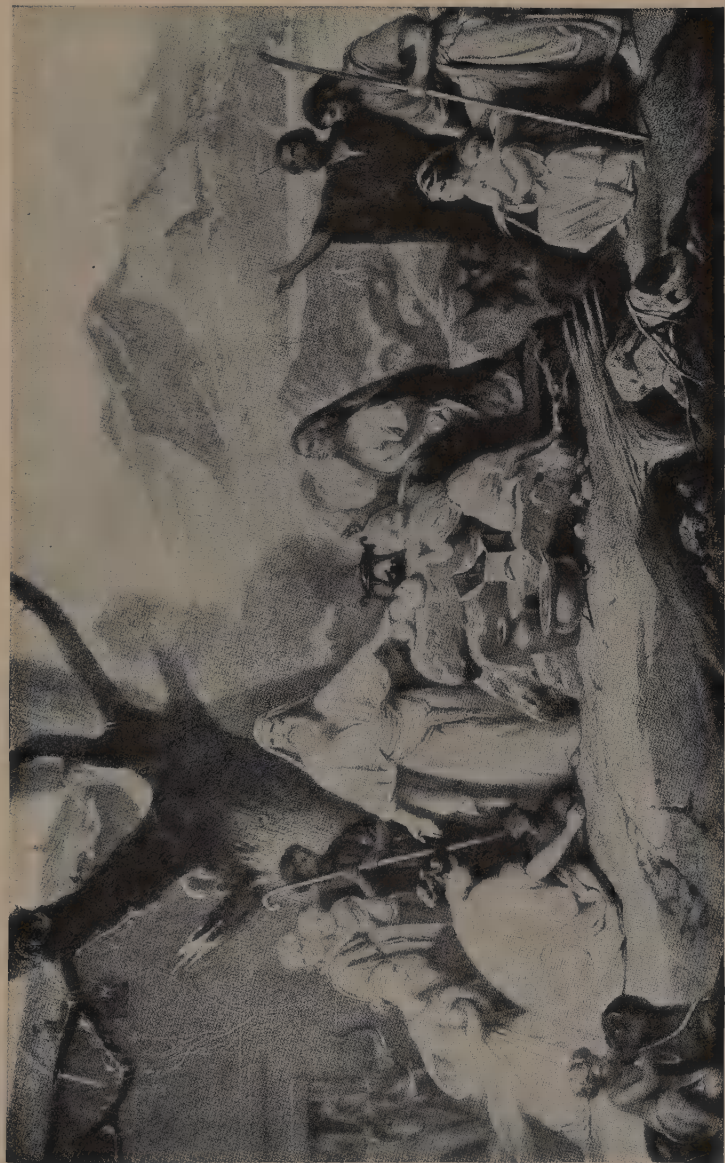
and ate the fruit of the trees. They watched the fish in the water and the birds in the air and the beasts upon the earth. They saw the sun shining by day, and the moon and stars shining by night. And the children thanked God and were glad.

II

THE RAINBOW

THERE was once a great rain upon the earth. The rain fell so fast and so long that all the earth was covered with water and everything upon the earth was destroyed. Now, before the great rain came there was living upon the earth a good man whose name was Noah. God told Noah that the great flood of waters was coming, and that everything on the earth would be destroyed.

God said to Noah, "Make an ark of wood; make rooms in the ark, and pitch it within and without with pitch. Make a window in the ark, and set a door in the side. Make it with lower, second, and third stories. Come into the ark, with thy sons and thy wife and thy sons' wives with thee. Of every living thing, two of every kind bring into the ark, to keep them alive with thee, of birds and of cattle and of every creeping thing upon the earth. Take with thee all food that is



Schopin

NOAH AFTER THE DELUGE

eaten, and it shall be food for thee and for them.”

Noah did all that God told him. He made an ark of wood with rooms. He made a window in the ark, and he set a door in the side. He made it with three stories. Noah went in, and his sons and his wife and his sons' wives with him. Of beasts and of birds and of everything that creeps upon the earth there went in two and two with Noah into the ark. And he took with him every kind of food that is eaten.

Then the fountains of the great deep were broken up, and the windows of heaven were opened, and the rain came. For forty days and forty nights the rain fell upon the earth. The waters rose upon the earth, but the ark went upon the top of the waters. The bushes were covered and the tall trees were covered, but the ark went above the tall trees. The hills under the whole heaven were covered, and the high mountains were covered, but the ark went above the high mountains. Everything upon the earth was destroyed,

but Noah remained alive. Safe and dry he rode in the ark above the trees and the hills and the mountains—Noah and his sons and his wife and his sons' wives and every living thing that was in the ark. The waters remained upon the earth a hundred and fifty days.

Then came a wind over the earth. The windows of heaven were stopped and the rain from heaven ceased. The ark rested on the top of a mountain. Noah opened the window of the ark which he had made. He sent forth a dove to see if the waters had left the ground. But the dove found no rest for the sole of her foot, and she returned to him in the ark, for the waters were on the whole earth. Then he put forth his hand, and took her, and pulled her into the ark.

Noah waited seven more days; and again he sent forth the dove out of the ark. The dove came in to him in the evening, and lo, in her mouth was an olive leaf plucked off. So Noah knew that the waters were lower upon the earth.

He waited seven more days, and sent forth the dove, which returned not again to him any more. Then Noah removed the covering of the ark and looked, and lo, the face of the ground was dry!

God spoke to Noah saying, "Go forth from the ark, and thy wife and thy sons and thy sons' wives with thee. Bring forth with thee every beast and every bird and every creeping thing."

Noah went forth, and his sons and his wife and his sons' wives with him. Every beast, every creeping thing, and every bird went forth out of the ark. Then Noah built an altar and thanked God for his goodness.

God said, "While the earth remains, seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night, shall not cease; neither shall there any more be a flood to destroy the earth."

And God said, "I do set my bow in the cloud, and it shall be a sign of a promise—between me and the earth. When a cloud comes over the earth, the bow shall be seen

in the cloud. And I will remember my promise between me and you and every living creature: the waters shall no more become a flood to destroy the earth!"

As Noah looked, the cloud parted and the sun shone through; and in the cloud was a gleaming rainbow.

III

ALL THINGS BRIGHT AND BEAUTIFUL

ALL things bright and beautiful,
All creatures great and small,
All things wise and wonderful,
The Lord God made them all.

Each little flower that opens,
Each little bird that sings,
He made their glowing colors,
He made their tiny wings.

The purple-headed mountain,
The river running by,
The sunset and the morning,
That brightens up the sky.

The cold wind in the winter,
The pleasant summer sun,
The ripe fruits in the garden—
He made them every one.

He gave us eyes to see them,
And lips that we might tell,
How great is God Almighty,
Who has made all things well.

—CECIL FRANCES ALEXANDER.



BUTTERFLIES

H. Hardy

IV

THE GREAT WORLD

GREAT, wide, beautiful, wonderful World,
With the wonderful water round you
curled,

And the wonderful grass upon your breast,
World, you are beautifully dressed.

The wonderful air is over me,
And the wonderful wind is shaking the tree—
It walks on the water, and whirls the mills,
And talks to itself on the tops of the hills.

You friendly Earth, how far do you go
With the wheat-fields that nod and the rivers
that flow,
With cities and gardens and cliffs and isles,
And people upon you for thousands of miles?

Ah, you are so great and I am so small,
I tremble to think of you, World, at all;
And yet, when I said my prayers to-day,
A whisper inside me seemed to say,
“You are more than the Earth, though only
a dot;

You can love and think, and the Earth cannot!”

—WILLIAM BRIGHTY RANDS.

V

MARJORIE'S ALMANAC

ROBINS in the treetop,
Blossoms in the grass,
Green things a-growing
Everywhere you pass;
Sudden little breezes,
Showers of silver dew,
Black bough and bent twig
Budding out anew;
Pine tree and willow tree,
Fringed elm and larch—
Don't you think that May-time's
Pleasanter than March?
Apples in the orchard
Mellowing one by one;
Strawberries upturning
Soft cheeks to the sun;
Roses faint with sweetness,
Lilies fair of face,
Drowsy scents and murmurs
Haunting every place;



IN AUTUMN

Laugee

Lengths of golden sunshine,
Moonlight bright as day—
Don't you think that summer's
Pleasanter than May?

Roger in the corn-patch
Whistling Negro songs;
Pussy by the hearth-side
Romping with the tongs;
Chestnuts in the ashes
Bursting through the rind;
Red leaf and gold leaf
Rustling down the wind;
Mother "doin' peaches"
All the afternoon—
Don't you think that autumn's
Pleasanter than June?

Little fairy snowflakes
Dancing in the flue;
Old Mr. Santa Claus,
What is keeping you?
Twilight and firelight
Shadows come and go;
Merry chime of sleigh-bells

Tinkling through the snow;
Mother knitting stockings
(Pussy's got the ball)—
Don't you think that winter's
Pleasanter than all?

—THOMAS BAILEY ALDRICH.

VI

TWENTY PIECES OF SILVER

JACOB had twelve sons, but he loved Joseph more than all his children, and he made him a coat of many colors. When the brothers saw that their father loved Joseph more than all his brothers, they hated him, and could not speak kindly to him.

The brothers went to feed their father's flock in the field. Jacob said to Joseph, "Do not your brothers feed the flock in the field? Come, and I will send you to them."

Joseph answered, "Here am I."

Then Jacob said, "Go, see whether it be well with your brothers, and well with the flocks; and bring me word again."

So he sent him away. Joseph went after his brothers and found them.

When they saw him afar off, they said one to another, "Behold, Joseph comes, with his coat of many colors. Come now, let us slay him, and cast him into some pit. We



JOSEPH SOLD INTO EGYPT

Dore

will say, 'Some evil beast has devoured him.' "

But one said, "Let us not kill him, but cast him into this pit that is in the wilderness."

When Joseph came to his brothers, they stripped him of his coat, the coat of many colors that he wore. They took him, and cast him into a pit. The pit was empty; there was no water in it.

Then they sat down to eat bread. They lifted up their eyes and looked, and behold, a band of travelers came from a far country with their camels bearing spices and perfumes. They were going to carry the cargo down to Egypt.

Judah said to his brothers, "What profit is it if we slay our brother? Come, let us sell him to the travelers."

And his brothers were content. They drew and lifted up Joseph out of the pit, and sold him to the travelers for twenty pieces of silver.

They took Joseph's coat, and killed a goat, and dipped the coat in the blood. Then

they brought it to their father and said, "This have we found. Is it your son's coat or no?"

Jacob knew it, and said, "It is my son's coat. An evil beast has devoured him."

Jacob rent his clothes, and wept for his son many days. All his sons and daughters tried to comfort him, but he would not be comforted. He said, "I will go down into the grave mourning."

The travelers took Joseph to Egypt, and sold him to an officer of the king. But God was with Joseph, and gave him favor in the sight of the king.

VII

THE SACKS OF CORN

JOSEPH lived for many years in Egypt. He was made keeper of the prison.

One day, Pharaoh the king said to Joseph, "There is none so careful and wise as you are. You shall be over my house, and by your word shall all my people be ruled."

Pharaoh took his ring from his hand, and put it upon Joseph's hand. He clothed him in fine linen, and put a gold chain about his neck. He made him to ride in the second chariot which he had. So Joseph was lord over all the land of Egypt.

Now, there was in Egypt more food than the people could eat, for the years were plentiful years. But Joseph knew that lean years would come when the grain would not grow. So he gathered the food of the field, and laid it up in the cities.

Then the plentiful years were ended, and the lean years began to come. The hunger



Dore

JOSEPH MAKING HIMSELF KNOWN TO HIS BROTHERS

was in all lands. But Joseph opened all the storehouses, and sold to the people. All countries came to Egypt to buy corn.

Now, Jacob said to his sons, "I have heard that there is corn in Egypt. Go down there, and buy for us, that we may live."

So Joseph's ten brothers went down to buy corn in Egypt. But Benjamin, Joseph's youngest brother, Jacob sent not.

Joseph's brothers came and bowed down themselves before him. Joseph knew his brothers, but they did not know him.

Joseph spoke roughly to them and said, "Why are you come?"

They said, "To buy food."

Joseph said, "You are spies; to see the bareness of the land you are come."

They said to him, "No, my lord, but to buy food are we come. We are twelve brothers, the sons of one man. The youngest is this day with our father, and one is not."

Joseph said, "Hereby you shall be proved. If you be true men and no spies, let one of your brothers be bound here in prison. Go,

carry corn to your houses. But bring your youngest brother to me.”

Then the brothers were sad. And they said one to another, “Because we did wrong against our brother Joseph, therefore is this sorrow come upon us.”

But Joseph took from them Simeon, and bound him before their eyes. Then Joseph commanded his steward to fill their sacks with corn, and to put every man’s money into his sack. The brothers loaded their asses with the corn and went away.

When they came to Jacob their father, they told him all, saying, “The lord of the land took us for spies, and we said to him, ‘We are true men; we are no spies. We are twelve brothers, sons of one man. The youngest is this day with our father, and one is not.’ And the lord of the land said to us, ‘Hereby shall you be proved. If you be true men and no spies, let one be bound here in prison. Go, carry corn to your houses. But bring your youngest brother to me.’”

As they emptied their sacks, behold, every

man's money was in his sack! When they and their father saw the money, they were afraid.

Jacob said, "Joseph is not, and Simeon is not, and now you will take Benjamin away. My son shall not go down with you."

When they had eaten up the corn which they had brought out of Egypt, Jacob said, "Go again, buy us a little food."

The brothers answered, "If you will send Benjamin with us we will go down: for the lord said, 'Bring your youngest brother.'"

Then Jacob said, "Carry down the man a present, a little honey, spices, and nuts. Take double money in your hand. Take also your brother. And God give you mercy."

The brothers took the present. They took double money and Benjamin, and they went to Egypt.

When Joseph saw Benjamin, he said to the ruler of his house, "Make ready, for these men shall dine with me at noon."

Then Joseph brought Simeon to them. All the brothers sat with Joseph at noon,

and they ate and drank and were merry with him.

Joseph commanded the steward, saying, ‘‘Fill the men’s sacks with food, and put every man’s money in his sack. But put my cup, the silver cup, into the sack of the youngest.’’

As soon as the morning was light, the men were sent away, they and their asses. But when they were not yet far off, the steward overtook them, and he said, ‘‘You have with you the silver cup from which my lord drinks.’’

But they said, ‘‘Should we steal out of your lord’s house silver or gold? If the silver cup is found with us, we will be your bondmen.’’

Then the steward said, ‘‘Let it be so. He with whom it is found shall be my bondman.’’

Then they took down every man his sack to the ground, and opened every man his sack. And the silver cup was found in Benjamin’s sack.

They rent their clothes, and loaded every man his ass, and returned to the city. They came to Joseph's house, and they fell before him on the ground.

Judah said, "We have a father, an old man, and this lad he loves, for his brother is dead. If we come to my father, and the lad be not with us, he will die. Now I pray, let me stay instead of the lad a bondman here; and let the lad go with his brothers."

Joseph wept aloud, and he said, "I am Joseph. Does my father yet live?"

His brothers did not answer him, for they were afraid.

Then Joseph said, "I am Joseph your brother, whom you sold into Egypt. But God has made me lord of all Egypt. Haste and go up to my father, and tell him that God has made me lord of Egypt. Tell him to come down to me and dwell here near me with his children and his flocks and his herds. And I will care for him."

Then Joseph kissed all his brothers and wept with them, and they talked together.

VIII

AMONG THE SHEAVES

NAOMI'S husband was dead, and her two sons. But Ruth, her daughter-in-law, lived with her, and Ruth loved Naomi. It was the beginning of the harvest, but Ruth and Naomi had no money to buy bread.

Ruth said to Naomi, "Let me now go to some field, and glean ears of corn. I may find favor with the owner of the field."

Naomi said to her, "Go, my daughter."

Ruth came to a field where reapers were. She spoke to the servant that was set over the reapers, and said, "I pray you, let me glean after the reapers among the sheaves."

So Ruth gleaned in the field, and gathered all the grain that the reapers left.

At noon the owner of the field, Boaz, came to see the work. He said to the reapers, "The Lord be with you." They answered him, "The Lord bless you."

Then Boaz saw Ruth, and he said to his



RUTH GLEANING

Dore

servant that was set over the reapers, "What damsel is this?"

The servant answered, "It is the damsel that lives with Naomi. She said, 'I pray, let me glean and gather after the reapers among the sheaves.' So she came, and has gleaned from the morning until now."

Then Boaz said to Ruth, "Hear, my daughter. Go not to glean in another field, neither go away, but stay here by my maidens. When you are thirsty, go to the vessels, and drink the water which the young men have drawn."

Ruth bowed herself to the ground, and said to him, "Why have I found favor in your eyes, seeing I am a stranger?"

Boaz answered her, "It has been fully shown me, all that you have done for Naomi."

Then she said, "Let me find favor in your sight, my lord, for you have spoken friendly to me."

Boaz said to her, "At mealtime come here, and eat with us."

So at noon Ruth sat beside the reap-

ers. Boaz reached her parched corn, and she ate.

When she rose to glean, Boaz said to his reapers, "Let her glean among the sheaves, and forbid her not. Let fall also some handfuls on purpose for her."

So Ruth gleaned in the field until evening, and beat out the grain that she had gleaned. She took it up and went into the city; and Naomi saw what she had gleaned.

Then Naomi said to her, "Where have you gleaned to-day? Blessed be he that has given you to glean in his field."

Ruth told her mother-in-law with whom she had gleaned, and said, "The man's name is Boaz."

Naomi said to her, "Blessed be he of the Lord. It is good, my daughter, that you go out each day with his maidens."

So Ruth kept by the maidens of Boaz until the end of the harvest. She dwelt with Naomi, and they had bread to eat.

IX

SEPTEMBER

THE goldenrod is yellow,
The corn is turning brown,
The trees in apple orchards
With fruit are bending down.

The gentian's bluest fringes
Are curling in the sun;
In dusty pods the milkweed
Its hidden silk has spun.

The sedges flaunt their harvest
In every meadow nook,
And asters by the brookside
Make asters in the brook.

From dewy lanes at morning
The grapes' sweet odors rise;
At noon the roads all flutter
With yellow butterflies—

By all these lovely tokens
September days are here
With summer's best of weather
And autumn's best of cheer.

—HELEN HUNT JACKSON.

X

ROBIN REDBREAST

GOOD-BY, good-by to Summer!
For Summer's nearly done;
The garden smiling faintly,
Cool breezes in the sun;
Our Thrushes now are silent,
Our Swallows flown away,—
But Robin's here, in coat of brown,
With ruddy breast-knot gay.

Robin, Robin Redbreast,
O Robin dear!
Robin singing sweetly
In the falling of the year.

Bright yellow, red, and orange,
The leaves come down in hosts;
The trees are Indian Princes,
But soon they'll turn to Ghosts;

The scanty pears and apples
Hang russet on the bough,



ROBIN REDBREAST

Millais

It's Autumn, Autumn, Autumn late,
'Twill soon be Winter now.

Robin, Robin Redbreast.

O Robin dear!

And well away! my Robin,
For pinching times are near.

The fireside for the Cricket,

The wheatstack for the Mouse,

When trembling night-winds whistle

And moan all round the house;

The frosty ways like iron,

The branches plumed with snow—

Alas! in Winter, dead and dark,

Where can poor Robin go?

Robin, Robin Redbreast,

O Robin dear!

And a crumb of bread for Robin,

His little heart to cheer.

—WILLIAM ALLINGHAM.

XI

THE ARK OF BULRUSHES

IN the land of Egypt there were many Hebrew people. The king of Egypt hated them because they were not his people. He set over them cruel taskmasters who whipped them and made them carry heavy burdens. One day the king said to his people, "Every son that is born to the Hebrews shall be cast into the river."

Now, there was among the Hebrew people a little girl called Miriam who had a baby brother. When Miriam and her mother heard the charge of the king they were afraid, and they hid the baby. For three months they hid him. When he grew so big that they could no longer hide him, they planned what they would do.

The mother said, "I will take an ark of bulrushes, and daub it with pitch. I will put the baby inside and lay it in the flags by the river's brink."



MOSES AND THE DAUGHTER OF PHARAOH

Dore

So she took an ark of bulrushes and daubed it with pitch. She put the baby inside, and she laid it in the flags by the brink of the river. Then she said to Miriam, "Stand afar off, and watch what will be done to him."

So Miriam hid herself in the tall reeds by the river, and watched.

The daughter of the king came down to wash herself at the river. She and her maidens walked along by the river's side. When she saw the ark among the flags, she said to her maids, "Go, fetch it, and we shall see what lies within."

The maids brought the ark. When she had opened it she saw the child. The baby was afraid and he wept. The princess took pity on him, and said, "This is one of the Hebrew babies. He is a goodly child. We must care for him."

When Miriam heard these words, she was glad. She came running from her hiding place, and said to the princess, "Shall I go and call for you a nurse of the Hebrew women,

that she may nurse the child for you?" The king's daughter said to her, "Go."

Miriam went and called the baby's mother. The princess said to the mother, "Take this child away, and nurse it for me, and I will give you wages." The mother took her baby, and nursed it.

The child grew, and the nurse brought him to the king's daughter, and he became her son. She called his name Moses, because she said, "I drew him out of the water."

XII

FIRE AND CLOUD

MOSES grew up at the palace of the king, as the son of the king's daughter, but he loved his own people. When Moses went out to walk he saw his people bearing heavy burdens; he saw them whipped by hard taskmasters; he heard their cry, and Moses was sad. But God heard their cry; he looked upon them and had pity for them.

God spoke to Moses and said, "I have seen the sorrow of my people which are in Egypt, and I have heard their cry. I will send thee to bring forth my people out of Egypt."

Moses said to God, "Who am I, that I should bring forth thy people out of Egypt?"

But God said, "Surely I will be with thee."

Moses gathered together all the Hebrew people and led them by night out of the land of Egypt. There were many hundreds of

men and women and little children; and there were with them flocks and herds of cattle. They carried bread and their clothes upon their shoulders.

They went through the wilderness toward the Red Sea. God sent before them by day a pillar of a cloud, to show them the way; and by night a pillar of fire, to give them light. He took not away the pillar of the cloud by day, nor the pillar of fire by night, from before the people.

It was told the king of Egypt that the people fled. King Pharaoh was angry and said, "Why have we done this? Why have we let these people go?"

He made ready his chariot, and took his army with him. He took six hundred chariots, and captains over every one of them. He went after Moses and his people. He overtook them by the sea.

The Hebrew people lifted up their eyes, and behold, the Egyptians marched after them; and they were afraid.

But Moses said to the people, "Fear

not; stand still. The Lord shall fight for you.”

Then the pillar of the cloud went from before their faces, and stood behind them. It came between the camp of the Egyptians and the camp of the Hebrews; so that the one came not near the other all the night.

Then the Lord caused the sea to go back by a strong east wind all that night, and made the sea dry land, and the waters were divided. The Hebrew people went into the midst of the sea upon the dry ground. The waters were on their right hand and on their left. And they walked upon dry land across the sea.

The Egyptians went in after them into the midst of the sea, all Pharaoh's horses, his chariots, and his horsemen. But the chariots sunk in the soft earth, and the chariot wheels came off. The waters returned and covered the chariots and the horsemen and all the host of Pharaoh that came into the sea. There was left not so much as one of them!

Thus the Hebrew people were saved from the hand of the Egyptians.

XIII

THE CAMP IN THE WILDERNESS

THE Hebrew people came a long way out of Egypt. They traveled for many weeks. They crossed the Red Sea and came into a wilderness. The bread which they brought from Egypt was gone. In the wilderness they found no food, neither bread nor meat.

The people said to Moses, "You have brought us forth into this wilderness to die of hunger."

Then said the Lord to Moses, "Behold, at even ye shall eat meat; and in the morning ye shall be filled with bread; and ye shall know that I am the Lord your God."

It came to pass, that at even the quails came up in great flocks and covered the camp. The people ate them for meat. In the morning the dew lay round about the camp. When the dew was gone, behold, upon the face of the wilderness there lay a small round thing,



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THE SMITING OF THE ROCK

as small as the hoar frost on the ground. When the people saw it, they knew not what it was.

Moses said to them, "This is the bread which the Lord has given you to eat. Gather of it every man as he needs for himself and for them which are in his tents."

The people gathered, some more, some less. They called the name of the food "manna." It was like seed, white; and the taste of it was like wafers made with honey. The people ate the manna and were filled.

But there was no water for the camp. The people said to Moses: "Have you brought us into this wilderness, that we and our cattle should die here? This is no place of trees or of vines; neither is there any water to drink."

Then the Lord spoke to Moses, saying: "Take thy rod, and gather the people together. Strike the rock before their eyes; and it shall give forth water. So shall the people and their cattle drink."

Then Moses gathered the people together before the rock. Moses lifted up his hand,

and with his rod he struck the rock twice. The water came out abundantly, and the people drank, and their cattle also. Then the people knew that God was with them.

XIV
WINTER NIGHT

BLOW, wind, blow!
Drift the flying snow!
Send it twirling, whirling overhead!
There's a bedroom in a tree
Where, snug as snug can be,
The squirrel rests in his cosy bed.

Shriek, wind, shriek!
Make the branches creak!
Battle with the boughs till break o' day!
In a snow-cave warm and tight,
Through the icy winter night
The rabbit sleeps the peaceful hours away.

Call, wind, call,
In entry and in hall,
Straight from off the mountain white and wild!
Soft purrs the pussy-cat
On her little fluffy mat,
And beside her nestles close her furry child.

Scold, wind, scold,
So bitter and so bold!
Shake the windows with your tap, tap, tap!
With half-shut dreamy eyes
The drowsy baby lies
Cuddled closely in his mother's lap.

—MARY F. BUTTS.



IN THE FIRELIGHT

XV
WINTER SNOW

WHERE do all the daisies go?
I know, I know!

Underneath the snow they creep,
Nod their little heads and sleep,
In the springtime out they peep;
That is where they go!

Where do all the birdies go?
I know, I know!

Far away from winter snow
To the fair, warm South they go;
There they stay till daisies blow;
That is where they go!

Where do all the babies go?
I know, I know!

In the glancing firelight warm,
Safely sheltered from all harm,
Soft they lie on mother's arm;
That is where they go!

—UNKNOWN.

XVI

THE BATTLE OF THE LAMPS

THE Hebrew people were camped on a high hill. There came a host of armed Midianites and camped in the valley below. The Midianites planned to capture the Hebrews to make servants of them.

There was among the Hebrew people a man of valor whose name was Gideon.

The Lord looked upon him, and said, "Go, and save thy people from the hand of the Midianites."

Gideon said, "O my Lord, how shall I save my people? Behold, my family is poor, and I am the least in my father's house."

But the Lord said to him, "Surely, I will be with thee."

Then Gideon gathered together his men. The Lord said to him: "Take only those that are bold and wary. Whoever is fearful and afraid, let him return to his tent. Bring the others down to the water to drink, and try



Dore

GIDEON PUTS THE MIDIANITES TO FLIGHT

them there. Everyone that stands and laps the water with his tongue as a dog laps, take him with thee. But everyone that bows down upon his knees, send him back.”

So Gideon brought down the people to the water. And the number that lapped, putting their hands to their mouths, were three hundred men. But all the rest bowed down upon their knees to drink water. So Gideon took the three hundred wary men, and sent all the rest, every man to his tent.

Then Gideon and the three hundred men took food in their hands, and their trumpets, and went down at night to the camp of armed men. The Midianites lay along in the valley like grasshoppers for multitude. Their camels were without number, as the sand by the seaside.

Gideon divided the three hundred men into three companies. He put a trumpet in every man's hand, with empty pitchers and lamps within the pitchers. He told them to stand every man in his place round about the camp.

He said to them: "Look on me. And behold, when I come to the camp, as I do, so shall you do. When I blow with a trumpet, then blow you the trumpets also on every side of all the camp, and say, 'The sword of the Lord and of Gideon.' "

So Gideon and the hundred men that were with him came to the camp. They blew the trumpets, and broke the pitchers that were in their hands.

Then the three companies all blew the trumpets and broke the pitchers. And they cried, "The sword of the Lord and of Gideon!"

When the host of the Midianites heard the blast of the trumpets and saw the lamps burning round about the camp, they cried and fled. Then the men of Gideon gathered themselves together and ran after the Midianites.

Thus were the people saved from the hand of the Midianites.

XVII

THE ARMY ON THE HILL

JONATHAN the son of Saul said to the boy that bore his armor, "Come, let us go over to the Philistines' garrison, that is on the other side."

Now, Saul was camped in the plain; and there were with him about six hundred men. Every man of the six hundred was faint of heart and trembling. They knew that the hour of battle was near, and they had only forks and axes to fight with. There was neither sword nor spear in the hand of any of the people that were with Saul.

But the Philistines were armed with swords and spears and shields. There was a great multitude of them, and they were camped on a bluff above the army of Saul. Between the two armies was a sharp high rock.

But one in Saul's camp was not afraid. It was Jonathan, Saul's son. Jonathan said

to the boy that bore his armor, "Come, let us go over to the Philistines' garrison. It may be that the Lord will work for us. It is as easy for the Lord to save by few as by many."

His armor-bearer said to him, "Do all that is in your heart. I am with you."

Then said Jonathan, "We will pass over to these men, and we will show ourselves to them. If they say to us, 'Tarry until we come to you'; then we will stand still in our place, and will not go up to them. But if they say, 'Come up to us'; then we will go up. And this shall be a sign to us that the Lord will deliver them into our hand."

So Jonathan with his armor-bearer went forth; but he told not his father.

Both of them came near the garrison of the Philistines and showed themselves.

The Philistines cried out, "Behold, the men of Saul come forth out of their hiding place!"

Then Jonathan and his armor-bearer shouted, "Come down to us, and fight."

But the men of the garrison answered, "Come up to us, and we will show you a thing!"

Then Jonathan was glad, and he said to his armor-bearer, "Come up after me; for the Lord has delivered them into our hand."

Jonathan climbed up upon his hands and his feet, and his armor-bearer after him. They shouted and waved their weapons and rushed upon the Philistines. When the men at the front of the garrison saw the boldness of the charge, they thought that the whole army of Saul was climbing up behind Jonathan. They turned and cried out and fled. Behold, the whole multitude was seized with terror, and melted away, beating down one another as they ran.

When Saul saw the men running, he said to the people that were with him, "Number now and see who is gone from us."

When they had numbered, behold, Jonathan and his armor-bearer were not there. Thus the people knew that the Lord with the help of two boys had saved them that day!

XVIII

THE GIANT CHAMPION

JESSE had eight sons, and the youngest was David. The three eldest sons of Jesse followed King Saul to battle. But David stayed at home and watched his father's sheep on the hillside.

One day Jesse said to David his son, "Take now for your brothers some parched corn, and these ten loaves, and run to the camp. Carry also these ten cheeses to the captain, and look how your brothers fare."

Now, King Saul and all his men were fighting against the Philistines.

David rose up early in the morning and left the sheep with a keeper and went. He came to the trench as the host was going forth to fight. David ran into the army, and saluted his brothers. As he talked with them, behold, there came up a mighty man of the Philistines, Goliath by name, and demanded that some soldier of King Saul fight with him.



DAVID SEEKS THE STONE

Goliath had a helmet of brass upon his head, and he wore a coat of mail. He had a shield of brass between his shoulders, and he carried a great spear and a sword.

He stood and cried out in a loud voice: "I defy the army of King Saul this day. Give me a man that we may fight together!"

All the men of King Saul, when they saw Goliath and his shining armor, fled from him, and were afraid. Even David's brothers were afraid.

Then David said, "Let no man's heart fail because of him. I will go and fight with the Philistine."

Saul said to David, "You cannot go against this Philistine to fight with him. You are but a boy, and he is a man of war."

But David said to Saul: "I kept my father's sheep, and there came a lion and took a lamb out of the flock. And I went out and struck him and saved the lamb out of his mouth. I slew both the lion and the bear."

And David said: "The Lord has saved me out of the paw of the lion, and out of the

paw of the bear. He will save me out of the hand of this Philistine.”

Saul said to David, “Go, and the Lord be with you.”

Then Saul gave David his armor. He put a helmet of brass upon David’s head, and armed him with a coat of mail. David took Saul’s sword and tried to go. But the armor was too heavy.

David said to Saul, “I cannot go with these.” And he put them off.

He took his staff with him. He chose five smooth stones from the brook and put them in his shepherd’s bag. His sling was in his hand.

When Goliath drew near David and saw him he was angry, for David was but a boy, ruddy and fair.

Goliath said to David, “Am I a dog, that you come to me with sticks?”

David said: “You come to me with a sword and with a spear and with a shield. But I come to you in the name of the Lord of hosts. This day will the Lord deliver you into my hand.”

Then David ran to meet Goliath. He put his hand in his bag, and took out a stone and slung it, and struck Goliath in his forehead, so that he fell upon his face to the earth.

When the Philistines saw that Goliath was fallen, they fled. The men of Saul rose and shouted and ran after the Philistines.

Then David went before King Saul and told his name. And the king's son gave David a robe and a sword and a bow.

XIX

I WILL LIFT UP MINE EYES

I WILL lift up mine eyes unto the hills,
from whence cometh my help.

My help cometh from the Lord, which made
heaven and earth.

He will not suffer thy foot to be moved: he
that keepeth thee will not slumber.

Behold, he that keepeth Israel shall neither
slumber nor sleep.

The Lord is thy keeper: the Lord is thy shade
upon thy right hand.

The sun shall not smite thee by day, nor the
moon by night.

The Lord shall preserve thee from all evil: he
shall preserve thy soul.

The Lord shall preserve thy going out and
thy coming in from this time forth, and
even for evermore.

—*Psalms 121,*

XX

THE KING'S MEAT

THE King of Babylon besieged Jerusalem and took it. He carried away with him much treasure.

He said to the prince of his serving men: "Bring also some of the children of Jerusalem. Bring boys good-looking and skillful, such as can learn to speak the language and read the books of Babylon."

When the children came to Babylon the king said to the prince of his serving men: "Give the boys each day from my table meat and wine. Feed them so for three years; and at the end they may stand before me."

Now, among the children of Jerusalem were four boys who were friends. One was called Daniel, and the others were called Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not eat the meat from the king's table nor drink of the wine which the king drank. He wished

to eat only the pulse which grew in the garden.

Therefore he said to the prince, "Ask me not to eat the king's meat and to drink the king's wine. Give me water to drink and let me eat pulse such as I ate in Jerusalem."

The prince loved Daniel and wished to favor him, but he said, "I fear my lord, the king, who has chosen your meat and your drink. If he sees your face worse looking than the faces of the other boys, then you shall make me lose my head to the king."

Then said Daniel to the prince, "Prove us, I pray you, for ten days. Give me and my three friends pulse to eat and water to drink. Then let our faces be looked upon, and the faces of the boys who eat the king's meat. As you see, so deal with us."

The prince agreed, and proved them for ten days. All the others were given the king's meat and the king's wine, but Daniel and his friends ate only pulse and drank water.

At the end of ten days the boys went before the prince. The faces of the boys were

fairer and fatter than the faces of all who ate the king's meat. Then the prince said to Daniel, "No more will I ask you to eat the meat and drink the wine; but you shall have pulse and water."

So the four boys lived in Babylon. They worked well, and God gave them skill.

At the end of three years the boys went before the king. The king talked with them; and among them all was found none like Daniel and his three friends. They were strong and tall and very skillful. When the king asked them questions he found them ten times better than all the wise men that were in his realm.

And the king made Daniel the governor over all the wise men of Babylon. And Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego he made rulers over the people.

XXI

THE FIERY FURNACE

NEBUCHADNEZZAR the king made an image of gold, and he set it up in the plain. He said to his heralds, "Gather together the princes, the captains, the judges, and all the rulers of the people to see the image."

Then the princes, the captains, the judges, and all the rulers of the people were gathered together to see the image.

A herald cried aloud: "To you it is commanded, O people, that when you hear the sound of the cornet, flute, harp, and all kinds of music, you fall down and worship the golden image. And whoso falls not down and worships shall the same hour be cast into a burning fiery furnace."

So when all the people heard the sound of the cornet, flute, harp, and all kinds of music, all the people fell down and worshiped the golden image.

But Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego worshiped the true God, and they would not pray to the golden image.

Then the princes came to the king, and said: "O king, live forever. You have made a decree, O king, that every man when he hear the sound of the cornet, flute, harp, and all kinds of music, shall fall down and worship the golden image. And whoso falls not down shall be cast into a burning fiery furnace. Now Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego have not obeyed you. They do not worship the golden image which you have set up."

Then Nebuchadnezzar in fury commanded to bring Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. They were brought before the king, and the king said to them: "Is it true, O Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, you do not worship the golden image which I have set up? Now, if when you hear the sound of the cornet, flute, harp, and all kinds of music, you fall down and worship the golden image; well. But if you do not worship, you shall be cast

the same hour into a burning fiery furnace. And who is the God that shall save you?"

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego said to the king, "O king, if it be just, our God is able to save us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will save us, O king. But if not, know, O king, that we will not worship the golden image which you have set up."

Then was the king full of fury. He commanded that the furnace be heated seven times more than it had ever been heated. And he commanded the most mighty men in his army to bind Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, and to cast them into the burning fiery furnace.

They were bound in their coats and their hats, and were cast into the fire. And these three men fell down bound into the burning fiery furnace.

Then the king was astonished, and called his princes in haste, and said, "Did not we cast three men bound into the fire?"

They said, "True, O king."

He said, "Lo, I see three men loose, walking in the fire, and they have no hurt."

Nebuchadnezzar came near to the furnace and said, "Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, servants of the most high God, come forth."

The three men came forth. And the princes, the captains, and the judges saw these men, upon whom the fire had no power. No hair of their head was singed, nor were their coats changed.

Then Nebuchadnezzar said, "Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, who has saved his servants that trusted in him. I make a decree that no person in my kingdom shall speak anything amiss against the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego."

XXII

THE DEN OF LIONS

A NEW king ruled over Babylon, whose name was Darius. Darius loved Daniel better than all the princes of Babylon, and he made him the chief ruler over the whole kingdom.

But Daniel did not forget the city of Jerusalem, nor the temple where he and his father and mother used to go for prayer. He kept the windows of his room open always toward Jerusalem, and he kneeled three times a day to pray and to give thanks to God.

Now, the princes and rulers did not like Daniel, because he had been made chief ruler over them all. They came before the king and said, "King Darius, live forever. We think that no one should ask a favor of any God or man, save of you, O king. Therefore, O king, make a decree and sign the writing that it be not changed: whoever shall



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DANIEL IN THE LIONS' DEN

ask a favor of any God or man, save of the king, shall be cast into the den of lions.”

To please the princes and the rulers the king put the decree into writing, and signed the writing, so that it could not be changed. The writing said, “Whoever shall ask a favor of any God or man, save of King Darius, shall be cast into the den of lions.”

Now, when Daniel knew that the writing was signed he went into his house. The windows were open in his room toward Jerusalem; and he kneeled three times a day and prayed, and gave thanks to God, as he did before.

Then the princes and the rulers went before the king again, and they said, “Have you not signed a decree, O king, that whoever shall ask a favor of any God or man, save of the king, shall be cast into the den of lions?”

The king answered, “The thing is true, nor can the law be changed.”

Then answered they, “That Daniel, who is of Jerusalem, obeys you not, O king, nor

the decree which you have signed. He makes his prayer to God three times a day.”

When the king heard these words, he was displeased with himself; and he set his heart on Daniel to save him. He labored till the going down of the sun to save him. But the princes said, “O king, no decree which the king has signed can be changed.”

Then the king commanded, and they brought Daniel, and cast him into the den of lions.

The king said to Daniel, “Your God whom you serve, he will save you.”

A stone was brought and laid upon the mouth of the den, and the king sealed it.

Then the king went to his palace, but he could not eat, nor could he listen to music, and his sleep went from him.

The king rose early in the morning and went in haste to the den of lions. When he came to the den he cried out in a loud voice to Daniel, and said, “O Daniel, servant of the living God, is your God able to save you from the lions?”

Then said Daniel to the king: "O king, live forever. My God has sent his angel, and has shut the lions' mouths, that they have not hurt me; because before him no wrong was found in me, and also, before you, O king, have I done no harm."

Then was the king very glad, and commanded that they should take Daniel up out of the den. No hurt was found upon him, because he believed in God.

Then Darius wrote to all his people, that dwelt in the earth:

"I make a decree that in every part of my kingdom, men pray always to the living God, the God of Daniel."

XXIII

GOOD AND BAD CHILDREN

CHILDREN, you are very little,
And your bones are very brittle;
If you would grow great and stately,
You must try to walk sedately.

You must still be bright and quiet,
And content with simple diet;
And remain, through all bewild'ring,
Innocent and honest children.

Happy hearts and happy faces,
Happy play in grassy places—
That was how, in ancient ages,
Children grew to kings and sages.

But the unkind and the unruly,
And the sort who eat unduly,
They must never hope for glory—
Theirs is quite a different story!

Cruel children, crying babies,
All grow up as geese and gabies
Hated, as their age increases,
By their nephews and their nieces.

—ROBERT LOUIS STEVENSON.



Le Jeune

GREAT EXPECTATIONS

XXIV

A GOOD BOY

I WOKE before the morning, I was happy
all the day,
I never said an ugly word, but smiled and
stuck to play.

And now at last the sun is going down behind
the wood,
And I am very happy, for I know that I've
been good.

My bed is waiting cool and fresh, with linen
smooth and fair,
And I must off to sleeps-in-by, and not forget
my prayer.

I know that, till to-morrow when I see the
sun arise,
No ugly dream shall fright my mind, no ugly
sight my eyes.

But slumber hold me tightly till I waken in
the dawn,
And hear the thrushes singing in the lilacs
round the lawn.

—ROBERT LOUIS STEVENSON.

XXV

THE VOICE IN THE TEMPLE

ELKANAH had a wife, Hannah, but no children. Hannah went to the house of the Lord, and prayed for a son. When a baby came to her, she called his name Samuel, saying, "Because I have asked him of the Lord."

When she had weaned him she took him with her to the house of the Lord. She took also gifts, three bullocks and a sack of flour and a bottle of wine. She brought the child to the priest Eli, and she said: "O Eli, I am the woman that stood here, praying to the Lord. For this child I prayed; and the Lord has given me what I asked. Therefore I will lend him to the Lord. As long as he lives shall he be lent to the Lord."

So Samuel lived in the temple and served the Lord, being a child. His mother made him a little coat each year, and brought it to him, when she came with her husband to pray at the temple.



CHILD SAMUEL PRESENTED TO ELI

Opie

Now, Eli had two sons, who did many evil things in the land. He said to them: "Why do you such things? I hear of your deeds from all the people. My sons, it is no good report that I hear. You make the people to do wrong."

But the two sons listened not to the voice of their father. Samuel, however, listened always to Eli, and did what the Lord wished him to do. So Samuel grew on, and was in favor both with the Lord, and also with men.

One night before the lamp went out in the temple, when Samuel was laid down to sleep, the Lord called Samuel. He answered, "Here am I."

Then he ran to Eli, and said, "Here am I, for you called me." But Eli said, "I called not; lie down again." The child went and lay down.

The Lord called yet again, "Samuel!" Samuel rose and went to Eli, and said, "Here am I, for you did call me." But Eli answered, "I called not, my son; lie down again."

The Lord called Samuel again the third

time. He arose and went to Eli, and said, "Here am I, for you did call me."

Then Eli knew that the Lord had called the child. Therefore Eli said, "Go, lie down. If he call, you must say, 'Speak, Lord; for thy servant hears.'"

So Samuel went and lay down. The Lord came, and called as at other times, "Samuel, Samuel."

Then Samuel answered, "Speak, Lord; for thy servant hears."

The Lord said to Samuel: "Behold, I will judge the house of Eli for the evil deeds of his sons. The house of Eli shall be punished."

Samuel lay until the morning, and opened the doors of the house of the Lord. He feared to tell Eli what the Lord had said.

Then Eli called Samuel, and said, "Samuel, my son."

The boy answered, "Here am I."

Eli said: "What is the thing that the Lord has said? I pray you, hide it not from me."

Samuel told him every whit, and hid

nothing from him. Eli said, "It is the Lord, let him do what seems good."

Samuel grew and the Lord was with him. When Eli was the priest no longer, Samuel became the priest in the temple, in place of Eli's sons.

XXVI

THE GUEST ROOM

THERE was a woman who had a husband, and a great house with many rooms. Outside the house were broad fields of grain. But the woman was not happy. She wished every day for a little son.

Now, it fell on a day that a good man Elisha passed by the great house. The woman saw that he looked tired and hungry and she said to him, "Turn in and eat."

And so it was that as often as he passed by Elisha turned in there to eat bread. As he ate he talked to the woman and to her husband about the work he was doing for the people.

So the woman said one day to her husband: "Behold, I see that this is a holy man of God, which passes by us often. Let us make ready a room for him. Let us set for him there a bed and a table and a stool and a

candlestick. It shall be when he comes to us that he shall turn in there to rest."

So the woman and her husband made ready a room for Elisha. They set for him there a bed and a table, a stool and a candlestick, and they waited for him to come.

It fell on a day that he came there, and he turned into the room and lay there to rest.

When he was ready to go he called the woman. She came and stood before him. He said to her: "Behold, you have been careful for me with all this care. What is to be done for you? Shall I speak for you to the king or to the captain of the host?"

But the woman shook her head and said: "I dwell among my own people. I have all that I need."

Elisha said, "What, then, is to be done for you?"

She answered, "I have no child, but for that there is no help."

Then Elisha said to her, "At this season in the next year, you shall hold in your arms a son."

She could not believe his words, and she said to him, ‘Nay, O man of God, do not lie to me.’

Elisha left, but he remembered to pray that God would send a son to the good woman.

At the season that Elisha had said the woman held in her arms a little son. The child grew. He went sometimes with his father to the broad fields to see the reapers; and sometimes he stayed near his mother and played in the great house.

XXVII

THE SERVING MAID

THE Syrians had gone out to fight with the men of Israel and had brought away captive a little maid. She went with Naaman, the captain of the host, to his house; and she waited on Naaman's wife.

Now, Naaman was a great man with the king of Syria, because by him had Syria won the victory. He was also a mighty man in valor, but he was a leper.

The little maid said often to her mistress, "Would that my lord were with the Man of God that is in Israel! Then he would recover of his leprosy."

Naaman's wife told the saying to her husband and to others of the host. One went to the king, and said: "There waits on Naaman's wife a little maid of the land of Israel. She says often: 'I would that my lord were in Israel! Then he would recover of his leprosy!'"



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THE CAPTIVE MAID

The king of Syria said to Naaman, "Go to, go, and I will send a letter to the king of Israel."

So Naaman left. He went with a chariot and with horses. He took silver and gold and beautiful raiment. He took also the letter of the Syrian king.

He brought the letter to the king of Israel. The king opened it and read, "Now when this letter is come to you, behold, I have sent with it Naaman, my servant, to you, that he may recover of his leprosy."

When the king of Israel had read the letter he rent his clothes, and said: "Am I God, to kill and to make alive, that the king of Syria sends a man to me to recover of his leprosy? I pray you, see how he seeks a quarrel against me."

When Elisha, the man of God, heard of it, he sent to the king, saying: "Why have you rent your clothes? Let the man now come to me."

So Naaman came with his horses and with his chariot, and stood at the door of the

house of Elisha. Elisha sent a messenger to him, saying, "Go and wash in the river Jordan seven times, and your flesh shall come again, and you will be clean."

Naaman was surprised, that Elisha asked him only to wash in the river. But he went down, and dipped himself seven times in the Jordan. His flesh came again like the flesh of a little child, and he was clean.

He returned to the man of God, and stood before him, and said, "I pray you, take a gift from me."

But Elisha said, "As the Lord lives, who has made you clean, I will receive none."

Naaman urged, but Elisha refused the gift. Then Naaman went back to Syria with his chariot and horses. He took back with him the silver and the gold and the beautiful raiment, When the king of Syria saw him he was glad, and all his host. Glad too was the little maid who waited on Naaman's wife.

XXVIII

THE CRUSE OF OIL

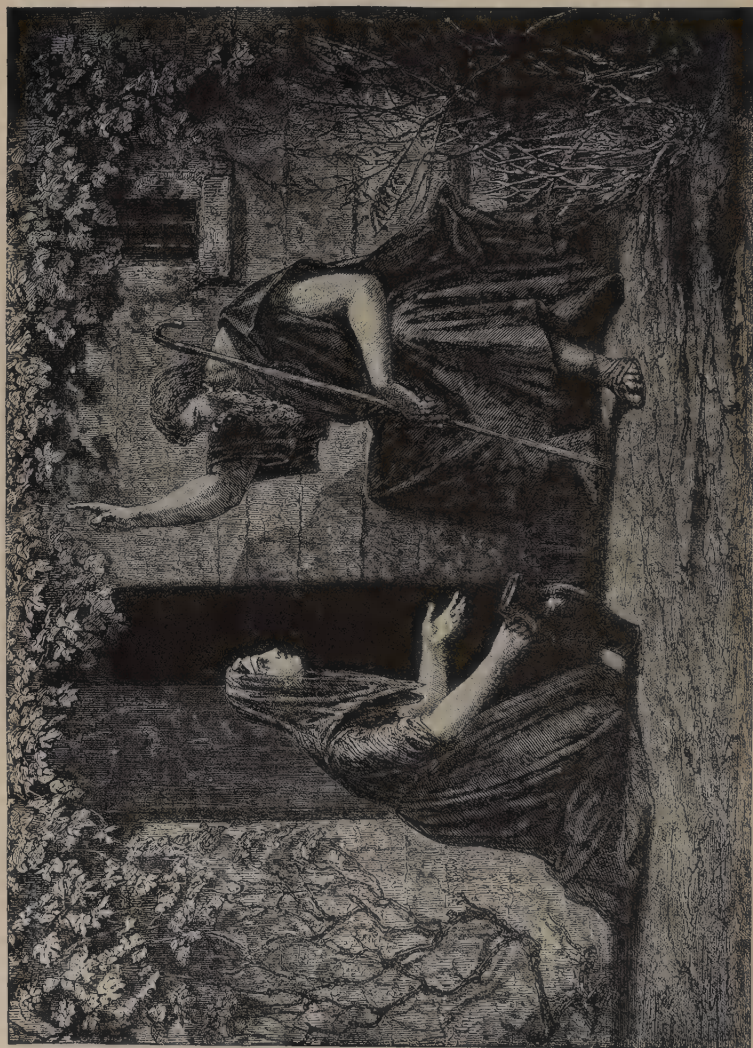
THERE was neither rain nor dew for many years, and all the land became parched and dry. The fruit withered upon the trees, and the grain would not grow in the fields.

Now, there was in the land an old man called Elijah, whom the Lord loved, for he went about doing good.

The word of the Lord came to Elijah saying: "Arise, go to the city, and dwell there. Behold, a widow woman will care for thee."

So Elijah rose and went to the city. When he came to the gate of the city the widow woman was there gathering sticks. He called to her, and said, "Fetch me, I pray you, a little water in a vessel, that I may drink." As she was going to fetch it, he called to her and said, "Bring me, I pray you, a morsel of bread in your hand."

She said, "I have not a cake, but only a handful of meal in a barrel, and a little oil in



ELIJAH AND THE WIDOW

a cruse. I am gathering two sticks, that I may make a fire and bake a cake for me and my son. When the cake is eaten, we shall die of hunger, for we have nothing more.”

Then Elijah said to her, “Fear not. Go and do as you have said. But make me a little cake first and bring it to me, and after make for you and your son. For thus says the Lord God, ‘The barrel of meal shall not waste, neither shall the cruse of oil fail, until the day that rain falls upon the earth.’”

The woman went and did as Elijah had said. She took the handful of meal in the barrel and the oil from the cruse, and made a little cake and brought it to Elijah. She said, “Take and eat; it is all that I have.” Elijah ate, for he was very hungry.

Then the woman went back again, and behold, there was still meal in the barrel and oil in the cruse. and she made two cakes more, one for her little son and one for herself, and they too ate and were filled. For many weeks Elijah lived with the widow woman and her little son, and slept in the loft above their

house. Every day he ate with them the cakes of meal. And the barrel of meal wasted not, neither did the cruse of oil fail, until rain fell upon the earth again.

XXIX

OLD DAME CRICKET

OLD Dame Cricket,
Down in a thicket,
Brought up her children nine—
Queer little chaps,
In glossy black caps
And brown little suits so fine.

“My children,” she said,
“The birds are abed:
Go make the dark earth glad!
Chirp while you can!”
And then she began—
Till, oh, what a concert they had!

They hopped with delight,
They chirped all the night,
Singing, “Cheer up! Cheer up! Cheer!”
Old Dame Cricket,
Down in the thicket,
Sat up till dawn to hear.

“Nice children,” she said,
“And very well bred.
My darlings have done their best.
Their naps they must take:
The birds are awake;
And they can sing all the rest.”

—UNKNOWN.

XXX

BEE AND CLOVER

CAME a roaring bumble-bee,
Pockets full of money.
“Ah, good morning, clover sweet,
What’s the price of honey?”
“Help yourself, sir,” Clover said,
“Bumble, you’re too funny;
Never clover yet so poor
She must sell her honey.”

—UNKNOWN.

XXXI
LITTLE CHRISTEL

SLOWLY forth from the village church—
The voice of the choristers hushed over-
head—

Came little Christel. She paused in the porch,
Pondering what the preacher had said:

*“Even the youngest, humblest child
Some kindness may do to please the Lord.”*

“Now, what,” thought she, and half sadly
smiled,

“Can I, so little and poor, afford?

Now she entered the village street,
With book in hand and face demure,
And soon she came, with sober feet,
To a crying babe at the cottage door.

It wept at a windmill that would not move,
It puffed with round red cheeks in vain;
One sail stuck fast in a puzzling groove,
And baby’s breath could not stir it again.

So baby beat the sail and cried,
While no-one came from the cottage door;



BASKET OF CHERRIES

Gardner

But little Christel knelt down by its side,
And set the windmill going once more.
Then babe was pleased, and the little girl
Was glad when she heard it laugh and crow;
Thinking, "Happy windmill, that has but to
whirl,
To please the pretty young creature so."
No thought of herself was in her head,
As she passed out at the end of the street,
And came to a rose-tree tall and red,
Drooping and faint with the summer heat.
She ran to a brook that was flowing by,
She made of her two hands a small round
cup,
And washed the roots of the rose-tree high,
Till it lifted its pretty blossoms up.
"O happy brook!" thought little Christel,
"You have done some good this summer's
day,
You have made the flowers look fresh and
well!"
Then she rose and went on her way.

—WILLIAM BRIGHTY RANDS.

XXXII

A PRAYER

FATHER, hear us as we pray;
Guard and keep us day by day;
Help us feel thy loving care,
Every day and everywhere.

Help us to be good and true,
Worthy work on earth to do;
All we have with others share,
Every day and everywhere.

—IDA F. LEYDA.

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